

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on July 24, 2007 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Room 112 of the Town Hall. The following members were present.

Al DeNapoli, Chairman
Chris Timson, Vice Chairman
Michael Caron, Clerk
Catherine Winston
David Sullivan

Also present:

Michael Boynton, Town Administrator
Chief Richard Stillman

Police Sergeant Appointment

Chief Stillman appeared before the board seeking a new sergeant to fill the 6th opening on the department. There are three candidates for the position: Joseph Zanghetti, John Carmichael and James Dolan. They are all outstanding officers.

Each candidate was asked to tell the Board member a little bit about themselves and why they applied for the Sergeant opening. They were each asked the same questions.

1. What does Community Policing mean to you?
2. What do you think would be your single biggest obstacle in the transition to first-line supervisor and how would you overcome that obstacle?
3. Scenario: you are officer in charge, the chief is unavailable, and none of the other supervisors are available and you need to make the decision. An elderly woman comes in and has difficulty getting into her vehicle, she is locked out and her husband is home and is ill and needs medication. She is becoming somewhat stressed out. At the same time you get a call about an automobile accident involving an officer from an abutting town, and a minor from Walpole. It looks like alcohol may be involved. You get a call from the adjacent town saying that they are looking for you to help out. What would you do?
4. What are the most challenging issues in Walpole?

Each applicant was given as much time as needed to respond to the questions and to ask any questions they might have. They were also given the opportunity to say anything else they felt was important that was not already discussed.

After discussion between the Board members it was noted that all three candidates were outstanding and it was a difficult choice. The Police Chief is recommending that John Carmichael be appointed Sergeant. Ms. Winston disagreed and noted that Officer Dolan has been a dedicated long time employee of the Town and she would be supporting him.

Mr. DeNapoli hopes the other officers put in an application in for the next one. They are so close and he does not see the difference. He likes what Carmichael had to say.

MOTION moved by Mr. Caron to appoint officer Carmichael as Sergeant, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 3-1-1 (Ms. Winston opposed, Mr. Sullivan abstained)

Chief Stillman stated that if they are told that we hope they will apply for the next position and keep up the good work. It is close. My basis is the overall picture of how they work day to day. Officer Carmichael is a very well rounded officer.

The Board invited the three candidates back into the room. Mr. DeNapoli thanked them all. I haven't seen such a group of candidates for a position as the three of you. You all

bring great qualities to the town. We have only one position. Hopefully for those 2 who did not get the vote tonight there will be a future opening to step up. We are limited by having only one opening. The Board has voted to appoint John Carmichael as Sergeant. He encouraged Jim and Joe to apply if something else comes up again, we appreciate all your efforts.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to move into Executive Session to discuss the character and potential discipline of an employee and collective bargaining, under Chapter 39, sect 23b3 seconded by Mr. Caron, VOTED by roll call; Mr. Caron-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye, Ms. Winston-Aye and Mr. DeNapoli-Aye.

The Board moved back to regular session and there was no further discussion.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Caron , VOTED 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Caron, Clerk